

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please accept amendment(s) to the claims as follows:

- Sub B17*
- a 2*
1. (Original) An apparatus for orienting a part, the part having been detached from a web having a plurality of parts, the apparatus comprising:
a duct including an interior sloped side, the interior sloped side creating a first opening for receiving the part and a second opening;
wherein the part exits the second opening in a substantially vertical orientation.
 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a machine for detaching the part from the web;
wherein the duct is coupled to the machine so that the part is received by the first opening of the duct after being detached from the web.
 3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the machine includes a punch and a die, the die including an opening through which the part passes before it is received by the duct.
 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interior sloped side is made of one of the group consisting of polymeric material and polished metal.
 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interior sloped side is planar.

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6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the duct includes a plurality of interior sloped sides.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the part has a curled shape, the apparatus further comprising:

a container for holding the part, the container including an open end and a convex contoured end;

wherein the open end of the container is coupled to the duct to receive the part from the second opening of the duct; and

wherein the convex contoured end of the container substantially conforms to the curled shape of the part.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the container accommodates a plurality of parts with a curled shape stacked upon each other.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the container is coupled to the duct using a u-shaped channel.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second opening is smaller than the first opening.

Claims 11-20 (Cancelled).

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21. (New) An apparatus for orienting a part having a curled shape, the part having been detached from a web having a plurality of parts, the apparatus comprising:

a duct including an interior sloped side, the interior sloped side creating a first opening for receiving the part and a second opening;

a container for holding the part, the container including an open end and a convex contoured end;

wherein the open end of the container is coupled to the duct to receive the part from the second opening of the duct; and

wherein the convex contoured end of the container substantially conforms to the curled shape of the part.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the container accommodates a plurality of parts with a curled shape stacked upon each other.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the container is coupled to the duct using a u-shaped channel.

24. (New) An apparatus for orienting a part, the part having been detached from a web having a plurality of parts, the apparatus comprising:

a duct including a plurality of interior sloped sides, the interior sloped sides creating a

first opening for receiving the part and a second opening;

wherein the part exits the second opening in a substantially vertical orientation.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the part has a curled shape, the apparatus further comprising:

a container for holding the part, the container including an open end and a convex contoured end;

wherein the open end of the container is coupled to the duct to receive the part from the second opening of the duct; and

wherein the convex contoured end of the container substantially conforms to the curled shape of the part.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the container accommodates a plurality of parts with a curled shape stacked upon each other.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the container is coupled to the duct using a u-shaped channel.